Amendments to claims

1 (currently amended): An adhesive composition comprising an acrylic polymer and a therapeutic agent, ~~and~~

wherein the acrylic polymer is a polymer prepared from monomers selected from the group consisting of alkyl acrylate monomers, alkyl methacrylate monomers, ~~and~~ polymerizable non-cyclic nitrogen-containing monomers and mixtures thereof,

wherein said alkyl acrylate monomers and alkyl methacrylate monomers have up to about 18 carbon atoms in the alkyl group, and

wherein said polymerizable non-cyclic nitrogen-containing monomers are selected from the group consisting of N-substituted acrylamide monomers, N-substituted methacrylamide monomers, vinylacetamides, nitriles, and mixtures thereof,

said acrylic polymer

(i) comprising, on a dry weight basis of the total monomer weight of the polymer, from about 50 to about 98% of said alkyl acrylate monomers and/or alkyl methacrylate monomers and from about 2 to about 50% of said polymerizable non-cyclic nitrogen-containing monomers,

(ii) lacks functional groups containing reactive hydrogen moieties and

(iii) contains no post-polymerization chemical crosslinker.

2 canceled

3 (currently amended): The adhesive of ~~claim 2~~ claim 1 wherein the nitrile is methacrylonitrile or 2-cyanoethylacrylate.

4 (original): The adhesive of claim 1 which has a Tg of less than about 10°C.

5 (original): The adhesive of claim 4 wherein the alkyl acrylate monomer is 2-ethylhexyl acrylate and/or n-butyl acrylate.

6 (original): The adhesive of claim 5 wherein the nitrogen-containing monomer is an N-substituted acrylamide monomer and/or an N-substituted methacrylamide monomer.

7 (original): The adhesive of claim 6 wherein the nitrogen-containing acrylamide is t-octyl acrylamide.

8 canceled.

9 (previously amended): The adhesive of claim 1 wherein the therapeutic agent is a pharmacologically active agent.

10 (previously amended): A transdermal drug delivery system comprising the adhesive of claim 1.

11 (previously amended): The transdermal drug delivery system of claim 22 wherein the adhesive serves as a carrier for the therapeutic agent.

12 (currently amended): A transdermal drug delivery system comprising an adhesive layer and a backing layer, wherein said adhesive layer comprises

(a) an acrylic polymer prepared from monomers selected from the group consisting of alkyl acrylate monomers, alkyl methacrylate monomers, ~~and~~ polymerizable non-cyclic nitrogen-containing monomers and mixtures thereof,

wherein said alkyl acrylate monomers and alkyl methacrylate monomers have up to about 18 carbon atoms in the alkyl group, and

wherein said polymerizable non-cyclic nitrogen-containing monomers are selected from the group consisting of N-substituted acrylamide monomers, N-substituted methacrylamide monomers, vinylacetamides, nitriles, and mixtures thereof,

said acrylic polymer

(i) comprising, on a dry weight basis of the total monomer weight of the polymer, from about 50 to about 98% of said alkyl acrylate monomers and/or alkyl methacrylate monomers and from about 2 to about 50% of said polymerizable non-cyclic nitrogen-containing monomers,

(ii) lacks functional groups containing reactive hydrogen moieties and

(iii) contains no post-polymerization chemical crosslinker,

and

(b) a therapeutic agent.

13 (original): The transdermal drug delivery system of claim 12 further comprising a release layer.

14 (previously amended): A method of administering a therapeutic agent to a patient comprising applying to a body surface of a patient the transdermal drug delivery system of claim 12.

15 (previously presented): The adhesive of claim 9 wherein the pharmacologically active agent is

fentanyl.

16 (previously presented): A transdermal drug delivery system comprising the adhesive of claim 15.

17 (previously presented): The method of claim 14 wherein the therapeutic agent is fentanyl.

18 (previously amended): The adhesive of claim 1 comprising an acrylic polymer prepared from 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, methyl acrylate and an N-substituted acrylamide monomer.

19 (previously amended): The adhesive of claim 18 wherein the nitrogen-containing acrylamide monomer is t-octyl acrylamide.

20 (previously presented): The adhesive of claim 18 further comprising a therapeutic agent.

21 (previously presented): The transdermal drug delivery system of claim 12 comprising an acrylic polymer prepared from 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, methyl acrylate and t-octyl acrylamide.

22 (currently amended): A transdermal drug delivery system comprising an adhesive and a therapeutic agent, wherein

said adhesive comprises an acrylic polymer prepared from monomers selected from the group consisting of alkyl acrylate monomers, alkyl methacrylate monomers, ~~and~~ polymerizable non-cyclic nitrogen-containing monomers and mixtures thereof,

wherein said alkyl acrylate monomers and alkyl methacrylate monomers have up to about 18

carbon atoms in the alkyl group, and

wherein said polymerizable non-cyclic nitrogen-containing monomers are selected from the group consisting of N-substituted acrylamide monomers, N-substituted methacrylamide monomers, vinylacetamides, nitriles, and mixtures thereof,

said acrylic polymer

(i) comprising, on a dry weight basis of the total monomer weight of the polymer, from about 50 to about 98% of said alkyl acrylate monomers and/or alkyl methacrylate monomers and from about 2 to about 50% of said polymerizable non-cyclic nitrogen-containing monomers,

(ii) lacks functional groups containing reactive hydrogen moieties and

(iii) contains no post-polymerization chemical crosslinker.